

A2

a polymeric material reinforced with a spaced reinforcing material on one side;
and

a colored material attached to an opposed side of said reinforced polymeric material wherein said colored material defines an exterior surface of a vehicle body panel and said polymeric material with said spaced reinforcing material is deformable in a predetermined manner in response to an impact force.

A3

16. (Amended) The body panel of claim 15 wherein said colored material and said polymeric material are molded together to form a vehicle body panel and wherein said reinforcing fibers are orientated into said reinforcing material in laterally spaced rows across the vehicle body panel.

RECEIVED

JAN 17 2002

Please add the following new claims:

GROUP 3600

A4

20. (New) A vehicle body panel comprising:
a colored layer forming an exterior surface of a vehicle body panel; and
a reinforcement layer attached to said colored layer and including a plurality of first sections having a first deformability and a plurality of second sections having a second deformability that is less than said first deformability wherein said first and second sections alternate in a predetermined pattern laterally across the body panel such that said colored and reinforcement layers are deformable in a controlled manner in response to an impact force applied to the body panel.

Rule
1.12621
22.

(New) The body panel of claim 20 wherein said colored layer and said reinforcement layer are integrally molded together as one piece.

²²
~~22~~ (New) The body panel of claim ²¹~~22~~ wherein said colored layer is comprised of a paintless polymer film and said reinforcement layer is comprised of a polymeric material.

²³
~~23~~ (New) The body panel of claim ²¹~~22~~ wherein said reinforcement layer is comprised of a polymeric material with reinforcing fibers with said first sections having a high concentration of reinforcing fibers and said second sections having a low concentration of reinforcing fibers.

²⁴
~~25~~ (New) The body panel of claim ²³~~24~~ wherein said first and second sections are alternating laterally spaced rows.

²⁵
~~26~~ (New) The body panel of claim ²¹~~22~~ wherein said reinforcement layer is comprised of a polymeric material with said first sections including at least one rib extending in an opposite direction from said exterior surface.

²⁶
~~27~~ (New) The body panel of claim ²¹~~22~~ wherein said reinforcement layer is comprised of a polymeric material with said first sections comprising a high density polymeric foam and said second sections comprising a low density polymeric foam.

²⁷
~~28~~ (New) The body panel of claim ²⁶~~27~~ wherein said first and second sections are alternating laterally spaced rows.

²⁸
~~29~~ (New) The body panel of claim ²¹~~22~~ wherein said reinforcement layer is comprised of a polymeric material with said first sections comprising a polymeric foam and said section sections comprising metal inserts.

²⁹
30. (New) The body panel of claim ²⁸29 wherein said metal inserts include at least one notch for initiating controlled deformation during application of said impact force.

²⁹
31. (New) The body panel of claim ²⁹30 wherein said first and second sections are alternating laterally spaced rows.

³¹
32. (New) A method for forming a vehicle body panel incorporating a predetermined crumple pattern in response to an impact force comprising the steps of:

- A4
- (a) placing a colored layer in a mold;
 - (b) forming a reinforcement layer with a plurality of first sections having a first deformability and a plurality of second sections having a second deformability that is less than said first deformability by alternating the first and second sections laterally across the reinforcement layer in a predetermined pattern;
 - (c) placing the reinforcement layer in the mold;
 - (d) molding the colored layer to the reinforcement layer to form a body panel with the colored layer defining an exterior surface of the vehicle body panel and with the reinforcement layer controlling deformation of the vehicle body panel in a predetermined manner in response to an impact force applied to the body panel.

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 10, 11, and 14-16 remain in the application including independent claim 1 and 14. Claims 5, 7-9, 12, 13, and 17-19 have been withdrawn as being drawn to a non-elected species. New claims 20-32 have been added including independent claims 20 and 32.

On the cover sheet, claims 4 and 6 are designated as rejected, however, there is no discussion anywhere in the office action as to what art claims 4 and 6 stand rejected under. Applicant respectfully requests an explanation for the rejections of claims 4 and 6.